THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government it has been provided that Government will ensure that all funds given to States for implementation of Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Schemes by Panchayat are neither delayed nor diverted. Monitoring will be strict. The Government has recently created a Ministry of Panchayati Raj *w.e.f.* 27.5.2004. This Ministry is in the process of being set up. While there is no proposal for constituting a monitoring agency as such, the Ministry is monitoring development programmes in association with its sister Ministry of Rural Development.

Two-tier Panchayat system

1407. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that many States have been demanding Constitution Amendment for two-tier Panchayat System;

(b) if so, what is the view of Government on this; and

(c) by when Government are likely to bring such Constitution Amendment?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Having considered all aspects of the proposal, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has decided to facilitate and secure implementation of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 by States/UTs, in letter and spirit, by encouraging States/UTs to adopt carefully drawn-up plans of action to implement the existing provisions of the Constitution.

ONGC's entry into power business

1408. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has plans to set up a number of power plants;